

Subject Dentist loan forgiveness, dental residency grant program

Authors Demuth and others

Analyst Elisabeth Klarqvist

Date February 15, 2021

Overview

This bill modifies the eligibility requirements for dentists to obtain loan forgiveness under the health professional education loan forgiveness program, establishes a greater Minnesota general practice dental residency grant program, and appropriates money for dental training programs and the health professional education loan forgiveness program.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|-------------|
|---------|-------------|

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Creation of account. |
|---|-----------------------------|

Amends § 144.1501, subd. 2. Modifies the eligibility requirements for dentists to obtain loan forgiveness under the health professional education loan forgiveness program, to make dentists who agree to practice in designated rural areas eligible for loan forgiveness (under current law dentists are eligible only if they agree to deliver at least 25% of their yearly patient encounters to state public program enrollees or patients receiving sliding fee discounts).

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Greater Minnesota general practice dental residency grant program. |
|---|---|

Adds § 144.1915. Establishes a greater Minnesota general practice dental residency grant program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: commissioner, eligible general practice dental residency program, and seven-county metropolitan area.

Subd. 2. Program administration. Directs the commissioner to award grants to eligible general practice dental residency programs to support existing and new general practice dental residency positions outside the seven-county metro area. Specifies how funds shall be allocated.

Section **Description**

Subd. 3. Uses of grant funds. Lists how general practice dental residency programs may use grant funds, and prohibits grant funds from being used to supplant other government or private funds available for these purposes.

Subd. 4. Application. Requires eligible residency programs seeking a grant to apply to the commissioner in a manner established by the commissioner, lists information an application must include, and allows the commissioner to require additional information from the applicant or have an applicant revise the application before awarding a grant.

Subd. 5. Program oversight. Requires grant recipients to provide the commissioner with information needed to evaluate and administer the grant program. Specifies what the commissioner must examine and data the commissioner must collect in evaluating the program.

3 Appropriations; greater Minnesota general practice dental residency grant program; rural dentistry scholars program.

Makes blank appropriations in fiscal year 2022 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the health professional education loan forgiveness program and the greater Minnesota general practice dental residency grant program, and to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to expand the rural dentistry scholars program (a program in which second- and third-year dental students are placed with rural dentists around the state for mentoring, collaboration opportunities, and opportunities to learn about oral health disparities and dental practice in rural areas).



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155